



National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center

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# Inside Wallops

## ***NASA Selects Home For Next Generation Space Telescope***

The duties of the Space Telescope Science Institute located at the Johns Hopkins University will be expanded to include the management of science operations for the Next Generation Space Telescope (NGST).

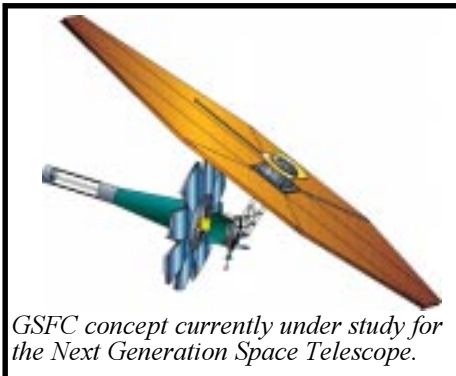
"The Space Telescope Science Institute has greatly served the interests of the global astronomical community, while producing a steady stream of impressive new discoveries," added Dr. Wesley T. Huntress, Jr., Associate Administrator for NASA's Office of Space Science. "With its selection as the Next Generation Space Telescope Science Institute, we can now count on at least a seven-year continuation of their outstanding efforts, rather than closing the doors to the facility after the Hubble mission ends in 2010."

The NGST is one of the cornerstone missions of the Astronomical Search for Origins and Planetary Systems, one of the major thrusts of NASA's Space Science program. The NGST will provide a critical follow-on to the Hubble Space Telescope and continue to deliver world-class optical and infrared science well into the second decade of the new millennium.

A goal of the Next Generation Space Telescope is to observe the first stars and galaxies in the Universe to further our understanding of how it formed

following the Big Bang. NGST will have capabilities currently unavailable in existing ground-based or space telescopes.

NGST studies are underway and NASA plans to start formal development of the NGST in 2003, with a projected launch in 2007. NGST has a planned operational lifetime of ten years. NASA expects that the operations cost for NGST will be in a range from \$15 million to \$25 million per year. The Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy



*GSFC concept currently under study for the Next Generation Space Telescope.*

(AURA) currently operates the Space Telescope Science Institute under contract to NASA. Possible adjustments to the existing contract, and the means by which selection and award will be made for NGST work, are under review.

NASA learned from its development of the Hubble that it was important to involve scientists early in the major mission science and operations planning. "We felt it was imperative to identify an NGST Science and Operations Center as soon as possible," said Huntress. "Through our analysis and consultation with our advisory committees, it became apparent that the most cost-effective and scientifically sound way to proceed was to expand the Institute's responsibilities to include the management of NGST."

## ***Space Grown Crystals Provide New Data On Diabetes***

Diabetic patients may someday reduce their insulin injections and lead more normal lives because of new insights gained through space research in which the largest insulin crystals ever studied were grown on the Space Shuttle.

Results from a 1994 insulin crystal growth experiment in space are leading to a new understanding of diabetes. Sixteen million Americans suffer from hormone deficiency diseases such as diabetes, hepatic failure, hemophilia, Parkinson's and Huntington diseases.

"The space-grown insulin crystals have provided us new, never-before-seen information," said Dr. G. David Smith, scientist at Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute, Buffalo, NY. "As a result, we now have a much

more detailed picture of insulin," Smith said.

Because of the increase in crystal size, Smith's team is able to study in more detail the delicate balance of the insulin molecule. Natural insulin molecules hold together and gradually release into the human body. With the new findings, researchers may be able to improve how insulin is released from its inactive-stored state to its active state. This could improve the quality-of-life of people on insulin by cutting down the number of injections they need.

NASA research has furthered the understanding of many diseases, including AIDS, heart disease, cancer, respiratory syncytial virus, sickle cell anemia, hepatitis and rheumatoid arthritis.

## ***Wallops Shorts.....***

### ***Wallops Fire Department***

On June 7, emergency medical personnel responded with an ambulance to an emergency medical call in Atlantic and transferred the patient to Shore Memorial Hospital. Accomack County 911 placed the mutual aid request.

### ***School Visit***

Terry Tinker did a weather balloon demonstration and spoke to 100 Snow Hill Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> grade students June 11.

### ***Wallops All Hands Meeting***

Goddard Director Al Diaz, the Directors of and other members of the Executive Council will be at a Wallops All Hands Meeting on June 18 in the Gymnasium, Building D-1, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. All Wallops employees are encouraged to attend.

This meeting is to discuss the results of the Goddard Culture Survey and to provide information on Project Goddard, which is the title for the core change activities the Center is pursuing to meet the Center's missions and customer requirements.

This will be an excellent opportunity to meet the full complement of senior managers and to hear directly about these important issues.

### ***Michael I. Mott To Leave NASA***

Mike Mott, NASA Associate Deputy Administrator (Technical), has announced his plan to leave NASA to join Boeing Space Transportation, Seal Beach, CA, as Vice President, Business Development.

Mott, one of the Agency's top three managers, has served the NASA Administrator since January 1994.

"Mike has been a valuable asset to NASA, and his contributions will be sorely missed," Administrator Daniel S. Goldin said. "We wish him the best of luck in his new position. It has been an honor to work with him."

Mott served in the United States Marine Corps in numerous operational and staff assignments throughout the United States and the western Pacific. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, participated in 89 major flight test projects, and commanded Marine Aircraft Group Forty One at Andrews Air Force Base. He accumulated over 3800 flight hours in 62 types of aircraft and made 210 carrier landings.

## Showers for Flowers

by Jim Buchanan, Meteorologist

Although there were only a few April showers to help the May flowers grow, they arrived in earnest during May. Normally there are 10 days with measurable rainfall. This year, measurable rainfall was recorded on 15 days. The largest amount recorded in a 24-hour period was 2.74 inches on May 12. On May 8, 1.59 inches was recorded. These two days provided more rain than the average for the month. Thirteen additional days of rainfall gave us a total of 6.89 inches, which is 3.7 inches more than is normal.

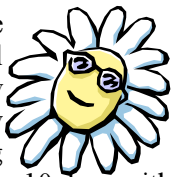
Warmer than normal temperatures continued, primarily due to much warmer nights. Daytime highs, averaging 71.7 degrees, were only .3 degrees above normal. Nighttime temperatures were over 3 degrees above normal with an average of 56.5 degrees. A record high, 85 degrees, was recorded on May 16. The old record was 81 degrees set in 1974. The 44 degrees experienced on May 14 tied a previous record low. On May 15 a new record low of 41 degrees was recorded. The old record was 44 degrees set in 1984.

During mid-May, a stiff northeasterly wind pushed cold air off the Atlantic Ocean over the Eastern Shore. Highs for this period averaged 59.8 degrees and lows 45.6 degrees, for an average that was 10 degrees below normal. The strongest winds for the month also were recorded during this period. Winds reached 34 mph on May 12 and 30 mph on May 13.

Should the warmer than normal temperatures continue into July, it could be a scorcher. Historically July is our warmest month with normal daytime highs of near 85 degrees and nighttime lows of 68 degrees. The average daily temperature for the month is 77 degrees. There have been four times during July when temperatures reached 100 degrees or higher. All of the record high temperatures for the month are at least 93 degrees. A very hot month is possible.

Normal precipitation for July is 3.56 inches, with measurable rainfall on 10 days. The heat also brings an increased risk of severe weather with strong winds and hail. During 1997, the only tropical storm to affect this area, Tropical Storm Danny, occurred during July.

The Atlantic hurricane season is now officially underway. Be sure you are prepared to take emergency action, if necessary. Don't wait until the wind is howling and the water is lapping at your door.



### International Luncheon Celebrating International Day June 22 11:30 a.m. Bldg. F-3

Admission: One covered dish of any nationality. Dishes will be labeled by name and national origin. For further information call Linda Thompson x1072, Roland Wescott x1624, Art Vigil x1278, or Barbara Justis x1732.



The Mobile Unit will be at Wallops for **Mammogram Screening** Wednesday, July 8 Building F-6 Parking Lot Call x1266 or x1336 for information.

### Wallops Annual Picnic

June 27  
Noon to 5 p.m.  
Ball Field Picnic Area

Food, Music and Fun

Burgers, hot dogs, corn on the cob, sodas and beer will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share.

DJ  
Noon to 4 p.m.

W a t e r s l i d e ,  
volleyball, softball,  
hayride and horse-  
shoes

For information contact  
Gerry McIntire, x1889 or Bev Hall,  
x1714

### Sore Muscles, Try Massage Therapy

Has the warmer weather gotten to be a pain? Does your back ache from working in the garden? Do your legs and arms ache from sudden exposure to water skiing or swimming? Did last weekend's golf game cause your joints to ache three days later, and pulling in the season's first drum nearly kill you?

Relieve your aching muscles with massage therapy. A certified therapist will be at Wallops, June 22. It's \$10 for 10 minutes in 5 or 10 minute increments, by appointment only. Contact Bev Hall, x1714 for appointment scheduling. Leave and flextime restrictions apply.

### FERS Open Season

Federal Employment Retirement System (FERS) open season is July 1 through December 31, 1998.

A FERS program will air June 24, 1 to 2:30 p.m. on Wallops television channel 6. The program will compare Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and FERS benefits, discuss Social Security benefits some employees may gain by transferring to FERS, cover Thrift Savings Plan issues and demonstrate use of the FERS transfer model. A follow-up information session at Wallops is being planned.

More information on CSRS and FERS can be found on the Office of Personnel Management homepage: <http://www.opm/fers.election/index.htm>

FERS Transfer Handbooks (A Guide to Making Your Decision) are available in the Wallops Office of Human Resources, Building F-160 or by calling Audrey Young, x2394.

### WEMA/MAA MONTHLY TAIL GATE SALE

Wednesday, June 17  
Starts @ 11:30 at the Flag Court  
parking lot across from the  
cafeteria

Buyers are looking for tools, grass cutters, garden tillers, tires, wicker, jewelry, Eastern Shore books, how-to books, herb plants, baskets, etc.

So...gather up your neglected hoard, make some quick cash!!!

WEMA sponsored clubs: don't miss this opportunity!!! Clubs can set up to sell anything but lunch.

All Civil Service, Contract, and Tenant employees are invited to set up!!! Contact Terry Ewell, x1133.

**NOTE: All leave or flex-time policies apply.**

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